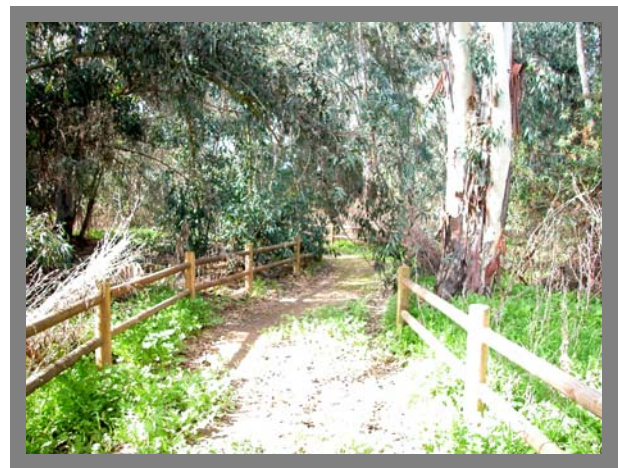


Fallbrook Community Trails and Pathways Plan

Trails: The Community Connection

The Community Trails Master Plan will be utilized to develop a system of interconnected regional and community trails and pathways. These trails and pathways are intended to address an established public need for recreation and transportation, but will also provide health and quality of life benefits associated with hiking, biking, and horseback riding throughout the County's biologically diverse environments.

Community trails serve a different function than regional trails, which are focused on the provision of long linear distances. Instead, community trails are "local public facilities" in close proximity to residents that provide transportation, recreation, access, infrastructure, linkages and safe routes throughout a community. The Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP) involves both trail development and management on public, semi-public and private lands. The CTMP has established two forms of non-motorized facilities called "Trails" and "Pathways" that provide passive recreational, and alternative modes of transportation.



Sycamore Ranch Community Trail, Fallbrook

Trails are typically away from vehicular roads that are primarily recreational in nature but can also serve as an alternative mode of transportation. They are soft-surface facilities for single or multiple uses by pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists.

Pathways are a non-motorized transportation facility located within a parkway or road right of way. A riding and hiking trail located in the road right of way is considered a pathway. They are soft-surfaced facilities intended to serve both circulation and recreation purposes. Pathways help make critical

connections and are an integral part of a functional trail system.

COMMUNITY TRAIL STATEMENT

Fallbrook trails and pathways are integral to the functioning, ambience, and vitality of the Fallbrook town center, its environs, and its remote areas. The unique character of sprawling, unincorporated Fallbrook is distinguished by its rolling hills and by the Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey River watersheds. Local residents as well as guests and visitors recognize and observe Fallbrook's natural beauty, charming downtown, and other points of interest often through use of existing trails and pathways.

The Fallbrook Planning Group supports the popular use of trails and pathways and encourages a public, non-motorized trail and pathway system that would not conflict with the rural and agricultural character of the Fallbrook community. The Fallbrook Planning Group well represents the local, popular sentiment to be proactive in its support of trails and pathways by encouraging the voluntary dedication and development of equestrian and hiking trails through subdivisions that could link to public transit facilities, local schools and shopping areas, parks and preserves, and the Countywide Trail System.

The history of public hiking and equestrian trails in Fallbrook began in 1992 when an agreement was reached between the Fallbrook Public Utilities District (FPUD)

and local hikers and trail riders for use of the Santa Margarita River basin owned by FPUD. This agreement has led to a more formal understanding wherein the Fallbrook Land Conservancy's (FLC) Trails Council now has benevolent stewardship of the 1,200+ acres of the Santa Margarita River watershed for hiking and equestrian trail development and maintenance. Old trails were re-opened along the Santa Margarita River by the FLC Trails Council in 2001 and 2002 adding further to this beautiful trail system. Further plans call for the development of another trailhead and a day park contiguous with the Santa Margarita River trails system.

The history of pathways in Fallbrook probably begins informally at the time of the founding of Fallbrook in 1865. Since that time, this unincorporated area has been characterized as a rural community, largely without many sidewalks and streetlights, supported by two-lane roads with only two primary traffic arteries passing through the town center, Mission Road and Main Street. As a result, an informal pathway system has been developed by local pedestrians to allow them access to such agencies as schools, churches, shopping areas, restaurants, parks, and the post office.

Usage of the Fallbrook trails and pathways includes a wide variety of people and purposes. The outlying trails are used by mountain bikers, runners, hikers, dog walkers, equestrian trail riders, school field trip classes, birdwatchers, and scientists. The

pathways are often close to the town center and lead to various historical and cultural sites. They serve school children, shoppers, walkers and runners, dog walkers, parents exercising with their children, and the disabled community. Some pathways are also suitable for trail riders and hikers, and connect to the various trails around Fallbrook.

Demonstrating their various benefits, several annual Fallbrook events make use of trails and pathways. These events include the Annual Avocado Festival's Bicycle Ride, the Fallbrook Land Conservancy's 5-K Run, the Fallbrook Land Conservancy Trails Council's Santa Margarita River Day Walk/Ride, and the Fallbrook Holiday Parade.

Fallbrook's trails have unique natural, historical, and cultural significance. The natural importance of the Santa Margarita River Trail is that much of it parallels the twenty-seven mile long Santa Margarita River watershed with its richly diverse riparian habitat. This superb habitat is a highly productive nesting locale for hundreds of bird species. From this trail can be seen, as nowhere else south of the Santa Monica Mountains, a river basin that typifies the region's ecological zones historically occurring in coastal southern California. The trail also allows for first-hand appreciation of various roles played in the region's history and has a focus of culture and tradition for Native Americans. The trail also, runs across and along the

California Southern Railroad's 1883 rail bed, and provides users with a view of the historic six miles of "high rocky walls" between Oceanside and Temecula.

There have been numerous, proactive projects consisting of ongoing trail development and maintenance in Fallbrook, which can serve as models for future trails. The Fallbrook Land Conservancy through its Trails Council is primarily responsible for these projects. Specifically, development, monitoring, and maintenance of the Santa Margarita River Trail System are carried out by the volunteer work contributed by the Trails Council. Recent improvements to the S.M.R. Trail System include the placement of trail signs throughout the Trail System, the re-opening of two old trails, which added another three trail miles, and clean up and installation of permanent picnic tables and benches through grant funding and private donations in the Sandia Creek trailhead.

The Fallbrook Land Conservancy Trails Council is a group of volunteers interested in the development of trails and pathways in and around Fallbrook for common, responsible use by residents and visitors. Other volunteer groups have also been actively and routinely involved in maintenance of trails and pathways. The friends of the Santa Margarita River co-sponsor an annual river clean-up campaign, which includes cleaning trails and pathways. Students of the Fallbrook Union High School District and the Fallbrook Elementary School

District also contribute voluntary community service hours to cleaning and maintaining the local watershed, trails, and pathways. Fallbrook Public Utility District annually sponsors a river-shed cleanup at the Santa Margarita River. Finally, the San Diego Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen regularly provide needed technical assistance in trail development and maintenance.

THE NEED FOR TRAILS

The community trail needs are based on an equation established by the Trails System Assessment (TSA) in 2001, which identified a minimum baseline level of service for each community by population. The Baseline Level of Service or Trail Need is 0.8 miles of trail per 1,000 people.

The “Trail Need” is the minimum length of trail miles (baseline level of service) for each Community and Subregional Plan Area. The TSA calculations for community trail needs are as follows:

- **Trail Need** = (Community Population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)
- **2000 Trail Need** = (2000 population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)
- **2020 Trail Need** = (2020 population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)

Population statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census were used to determine the current trail needs in Fallbrook. Based on the census, the population of the Fallbrook

Community Plan Area is 39,646 and there is a current need for 32 miles of community trails. In the year 2020, the population is projected to increase to 60,990 and there would be a future need for 48 miles of community trails.

For additional information about the baseline level of service and trail needs, please refer to the discussion under “**The Need for Trails**” and **Tables NT-1 and NT-2** in the CTMP.

COUNTYWIDE TRAIL GOALS AND POLICIES

The “**Countywide Goals and Policies**” contained in the CTMP apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific goals and policies are intended to accommodate specific needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community-specific goals and policies are not addressed, the “**Countywide Goals and Policies**” contained in CTMP shall apply.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

Countywide trail guidelines in the Community Trails Master Plan apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific guidelines are intended to accommodate specific community needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community specific guidelines are not addressed, the Countywide “**Design and**

Construction Guidelines” contained in the CTMP shall apply.

FALLBROOK COMMUNITY TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Fallbrook desires to supplement the existing and proposed community trail development by encouraging the voluntary dedication and development of equestrian and hiking trails through subdivisions that could link to public transit facilities, local schools and shopping areas, parks and preserves, and the Countywide Trail System. The Fallbrook Planning Group supports the popular use of trails and pathways and encourages a public, non-motorized trail and pathway system that would not conflict with the rural and agricultural character of the Fallbrook Community.

The Fallbrook Land Conservancy Trails Council is a group of volunteers interested in the development of trails and pathways in and around Fallbrook for common, responsible use by residents and visitors. Other volunteer groups have also been actively and routinely involved in maintenance of trails and pathways. The friends of the Santa Margarita River co-sponsor an annual river clean-up campaign, which includes cleaning trails and pathways. Students of the Fallbrook Union High School District and the Fallbrook Elementary School District also contribute voluntary community service hours to cleaning and maintaining the local watershed, trails, and pathways. Fallbrook

Public Utility District annually sponsors a river-shed cleanup at the Santa Margarita River. Finally, the San Diego Chapter of Backcountry Horsemen regularly provides needed technical assistance in trail development and maintenance.

FALLBROOK COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP SUMMARY

As a result of the community trails outreach process for development of the CTMP, the Fallbrook Community Planning Group completed several tasks, and prioritized community trails and pathways as well as their special features. Each trail and pathway was labeled and recorded producing a community trails map and index .

Proposed trails shown on trails maps contained in the Community Trail Master Plan depict corridors of general alignments. The term “general alignment” is used to describe the general location of a future trail within a designated corridor so that the specific alignment can be determined during the review and approval process when a discretionary application is submitted for a development permit for land that includes a trail corridor. The designated corridor is approximately one-quarter mile wide. A general alignment is useful because it allows the trail to be located to avoid extreme topographical conditions, sensitive habitat or other site-specific constraints.

FALLBROOK COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP INDEX

The following community trails map index was completed by the Fallbrook Community Planning Group and will be used as a reference tool.



Sycamore Ranch Trail

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COMMUNITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN

FALLBROOK TRAILS MAP INDEX

Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: (x) Existing () Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
1	77/29	Santa Margarita River Trail	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Adds to community character, historic / cultural significance, trail experience, large local trail user populations, connections, health and safety benefits, trial events.	1. Two staging areas 2. Trail connectivity 3. Volunteer maintenance 4. Funding aid 5. Parallels riverine habitat
		Connections:	Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
		Trails #2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 10		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: (x) Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
2	77/29	Sandia Creek Trail	Trail Type: () Trail () Pathway	Completes existing trail, remoteness, large user population, continues thru The Pendleton Deluz to Cleveland Nat'l Forest and Santa Rosa	1. Staging area to be built 2. Trail connections 3. Volunteer maintenance 4. Funding aid 5. Parallels beautiful riverine habitat 6. Includes San Diego County parkland.
		Connections:	Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
		Trails #1, 3, 7	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 4 (priority 1) and 2 (priority 3)		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
3	77/29	Gavilan Mountain Trail	Trail Type: (x) Trail () Pathway	Trail extends an existing trail, large user population, opportunity for privately donated trail easements.	1. Trail connectivity 2. Volunteer maintenance 3. Funding aid 4. .Riverine habitat
		Connections:	Trail Priority: () 1 () 2 (x) 3		
		Trails #1, 2	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 8		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: (x) Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
4	77	Red Mountain Trail	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Trail connectivity, remoteness, views, challenging experience.	1Funding aid 2. Volunteer maintenance
		Connections:	Trail Priority: () 1 () 2 (x) 3		
		Trails #1, 3,	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 4		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
5	7/47/77	Stage Coach Trail	Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway	Connectivity to existing trail and linking large open space with existing nature preserves. Connects Fallbrook Union High School Dist. Schools with preserves and open space.	1. Funding aid 2. Volunteer maintenance
		Connections:	Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
		Trails #1, 3, 6, 7, 8	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 8		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
6	77	N/A	Trail Type: (x) Trail () Pathway	Trail extends existing trail, Opportunity for privately donated trail easements.	1. Funding aid 2. Volunteer maintenance
		Connections:	Trail Priority: () 1 () 2 (x) 3		
		Trails #1, 5	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2		

COUNTY TRAILS PROGRAM
COMMUNITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN

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Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
7	7/29/47/77	Mission Road Pathway	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Pathway/Trail encircles majority of Fallbrook. Connects two major trails. Connects high schools, elementary schools, post office and library.	1. Funding aid 2. Volunteer maintenance
		Connections:	Trail Priority: (x) 1 (x) 2 () 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 18		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: (x) Existing () Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
8	7/29/47/77	Gird Valley Loop	Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway	Trail connects to populated areas and other recreation sites, and public facilities.	1. Funding aid 2. Volunteer maintenance
		Connections:	Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
		Trails #5, 7, 9, 13	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 9		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: (x) Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
9	7	Pala Mesa Trail	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Trail connects Trails #7, 8, & 14. Trail connects to existing land preserve.	1. Funding aid 2. Volunteer maintenance
		Connections:	Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
		Trails #7, 8, 14	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 3		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
10	7	N/A	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Trail connects to existing trails. Large local user population.	1. Trail connectivity 2. Multi-use trail (especially bikers)
		Connections:	Trail Priority: (x) 1 (x) 2 (x) 3		
		Trails #7, 8	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 1 (priority 1), 0.5 (priority 2), 3.5 (priority 3)		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
11	7/47	Olive Hill Pathway	Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway	Pathway connects to other existing trails	1. Trail connectivity 2. Multi-use trail (especially bikers)
		Connections:	Trail Priority: () 1 () 2 (x) 3		
		Trail #7	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 4		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
12	7	Green Canyon Trail	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Pathway connects to other potential trails	1. Trail connectivity
		Connections:	Trail Priority: () 1 () 2 (x) 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 5		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
13	7/53	Pala-Pauma San Luis Rey Connector Trail	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Pathway / trail paralleling beautiful riverine habitat	1. Important inter-jurisdictional trail (Bonsall)
		Connections:	Trail Priority: () 1 () 2 (x) 3		
		Trails #7, 8, 10, 14	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 7		
Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
14	7/53	Monserate Mtn. To Valley Center Connector Trail	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Trail connects existing trail to dedicated land preserve providing additional existing trails.	1. Funding aid 2. Volunteer maintenance 3. Important inter-jurisdictional trail (Valley Center).
		Connections:	Trail Priority: () 1 () 2 (x) 3		
		Trails #9, 13	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2		

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Trail #:	USGS Quad(s):	Name:	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	Trail Priority Criteria:	Special Features:
15	77	Riverview Trail	Trail Type: (x) Trail (x) Pathway	Trail/pathway connecting to other existing trails. Beautiful views of riverine habitat.	1. Funding aid 2. Volunteer maintenance
		Connections:	Trail Priority: () 1 () 2 (x) 3		
		Trails #1, 7	Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2		